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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/585,747	06/02/2000	Smaragda Hadjinikitas	Syner-161XX	7128
207	7590	08/30/2005	EXAMINER	
WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP TEN POST OFFICE SQUARE BOSTON, MA 02109			DINH, MINH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2132	

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/585,747

Applicant(s)

HADJINIKITAS ET AL.

Examiner

Minh Dinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 16-24 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed 06/14/2005. Claims 1, 4-5, 8 and 21 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4 have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant's amendments have necessitated a new search and new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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4. Claims 1-3 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fuh et al (6,463,474).

Regarding claim 1, Fuh discloses a method for authenticating a user of a client computer comprising the steps of: receiving a service request from the user at a first data processing agent (fig. 3; fig. 7A, step 702); submitting an authentication request from the first data processing agent to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user (fig. 7B, step 728); receiving a response to the authentication request at the first data processing agent from the second data processing agent, wherein if the user is successfully authenticated, the response includes authentication information that the first data processing agent can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent (fig. 7B, step 732); and if the received response indicates that the user is successfully authenticated, providing the requested service to the user (fig. 7B, step 740).

Regarding claim 2, Fuh further discloses that the received response includes a level of access privileges for the user, and the providing step includes the step of determining the service provided to the user based upon the user's access privilege level (col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 18; col. 8, lines 30-37; col. 13, line 60 – col. 14, line 30).

Regarding claim 3, Fuh further discloses that the first data processing agent is included in a firewall router which constitutes a server and that the second data processing agent is included in an AAA server (figures 3-4).

Regarding claim 12, Fuh further discloses that the authentication information includes a user name and a password associated with the user (col. 8, lines 30-37; col. 12, lines 30-56).

Regarding claim 13, Fuh further discloses that the authentication information is stored at the first data processing agent and used to authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent (col. 12, lines 30-56).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuh in view of Moriconi et al. (6,158,010).

Regarding claim 4, Fuh discloses a system comprising a first data processing agent configured to receive a service request from a user and submit an authentication request from the first data processing agent to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user (fig. 3; fig. 7A, step 702; fig. 7B, step 728); a second data processing agent configured to receive the authentication request, attempt to authenticate the user, and transmit a response indicative of whether the user is

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successfully authenticated, the response includes authentication information that the first data processing agent can use to subsequently re-authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent (fig. 7B, step 732). Fuh does not disclose that the data processing agents are on the same server. Moriconi et al. disclose that two data processing agents are implemented on the same server (col. 10, line 64 – col. 11, line 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the Fuh system such that the first and second data processing agents are implemented on the same server, as taught by Moriconi, in order to provide maximum performance and minimize network traffic overhead.

Regarding claim 14, Fuh further discloses that the authentication information includes a user name and a password associated with the user (col. 8, lines 30-37; col. 12, lines 30-56).

Regarding claim 15, Fuh further discloses that the authentication information is stored at the first data processing agent and used to authenticate the user without submitting a subsequent authentication request to the second data processing agent (col. 12, lines 30-56).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-8 and 16-24 are allowed.

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8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Claims 5-7 and 16-20 are directed to an authentication method in a distributed environment in which a first data processing agent utilizes a second data processing agent for authenticating a first request for service from a user received at the first data processing agent, and the second data processing agent monitors an inactivity timeout period associated with the user's session with the first data processing agent. More specifically, independent claim 5 identifies the uniquely distinct feature: "if a second request is received from the user at another of the plurality of first data processing agents before the first time period is exceeded, restarting the first timeout period". The closest prior art, Gupta et al (6,226,752), discloses an authentication method in a distributed environment in which the first timeout period is restarted if a second request of the same session is received; however, Gupta does not teach that the first timeout period is restarted if a second request is received from the user at another first data processing agent. The prior art, taken either singly or in combination, fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of applicant's independent claim, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C 102 or 103 would be proper. The claimed invention is therefore considered to be in condition for allowance as being novel and nonobvious over prior art.

Claims 8 and 21-24 are system claims corresponding to the method claims 5-7 and 16-20 and, therefore, are allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-3802. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 10:00am-6:30pm.

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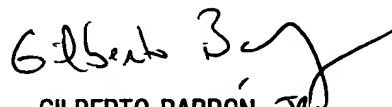
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MD

Minh Dinh
Examiner
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MD
8/24/05


GILBERTO BARRON JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100